

SFRC



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Office of Legislative Counsel

Washington, D. C. 20505

Telephone:

26 February 1982

STAT

TO: Mr. Mike Kraft
Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

CS to

1 March

Mike:

Enclosed is the only unclassified
info article on arms sales to the Third
World. Hope this helps.

Sincerely,

Legislative Liaison

STAT

Enclosure

Distribution:

Original - Addressee

1 - EA Record

1 - EA Chrono

OEA:

1982

STAT

17 February 1982

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Soviet-Supported Destabilizing Activities in the Third World

The Soviets and those associated with the Soviets have, in the past year, actively pumped arms, money, and other forms of assistance (such as training) into many Third World areas which are already seething with domestic discontent. In part because of these actions, the threat to US interests in the less developed part of the world rose appreciably. The increasing availability of money, training, and weapons coincided with and may have even helped stimulate two trends which directly endanger US diplomats and businessmen and indirectly undercut the viability of many moderate governments which the US supports: opposition groups in LDCs are turning to violence more frequently and the number of sovereign governments willing and able to support armed opposition against others as a foreign policy tool is also rising. The US must now concern itself with the support to externally-directed political violence provided by Libya, Iran, Iraq, Syria, South Yemen, Nicaragua, and Ethiopia in addition to our traditional concern with the activities of the Soviet Union and Cuba.

Soviet Military Assistance to the Third World

Moscow has sold and given away some \$55 billion worth of arms and military assistance to the Third World since the OPEC oil price hikes of the mid-1970s. This is four times the amount the Soviet Union committed during the previous decades. Three-quarters of recent arms sales and grants went to Middle East/ North African states, as the Kremlin moved swiftly to accommodate ambitious Arab rearmament plans drawn up following the 1973 Middle East war. Soviet military presence in the Third World increased in tandem with the rise in arms transfers--more than 15,000 Soviet military advisors and technicians were stationed in non-Communist LDCs last year, nearly a 100 percent augmentation since 1975.